

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM  
APPLICATION EVALUATION RANKING TOOL—NATIONAL QUESTIONS**

<b>Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) Ranking Question</b>	<b>2013 Points</b>
1a. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	40
Award points if a CRP contract has expired OR will expire by September 30, 2013, and is still in permanent cover.	
1b. Support existing or new national or landscape initiatives that support state, national or tribal fish or wildlife plans such as: Working Lands for Wildlife (WLW)	40
Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative—Award points if at least 50 percent of the offered area is located in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative area AND if the WHIP Plan of Operations (WPO) meets the minimum requirements for Lesser Prairie-Chicken based on the Kansas Wildlife Habitat Assessment Guide (KWHAG) (see Kansas Biology Technical Note KS-33 and Conservation Programs Geographic Information System [GIS] Interface [CPGI] tool).	
1c. Benefit federally listed threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, fish or wildlife species of concern?	25
<p>Award points if the WPO restores or enhances critical habitat for threatened and endangered (T&amp;E) species or provides habitat for species in need of conservation (SINC) AND includes one of the following conservation practices (CPs) (any portion the offered area may fall within designated critical habitat of state or federally listed T&amp;E species):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brush Management (314)</li> <li>Herbaceous Weed Control (315)</li> <li>Contour Buffer Strips (332)</li> <li>Prescribed Burning (338)</li> <li>Critical Area Planting (342)</li> <li>Field Border (386)</li> <li>Filter Strip (393)</li> <li>Forage and Biomass Planting (512)</li> <li>Prescribed Grazing (528)</li> <li>Range Planting (550)</li> <li>Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)</li> <li>Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitat (643)</li> <li>Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)</li> <li>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)</li> <li>Wetland Restoration (657)</li> <li>Wetland Creation (658)</li> <li>Wetland Enhancement (659)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note—only award points if native grasses, forbs, legumes, trees and/or shrubs are planned for use in vegetative practices.</i></p>	

1d. Benefit State WHIP Plan (SWP) prioritized native habitat critical to a fish or wildlife species?	20
<p>Award points if offered area falls within designated critical habitat of state or federally listed T&amp;E species AND if the plan includes one of the following CPs:</p> <p>Brush Management (314)  Herbaceous Weed Control (315)  Contour Buffer Strips (332)  Prescribed Burning (338)  Critical Area Planting (342)  Field Border (386)  Riparian Forest Buffer (391)  Filter Strip (393)  Forage and Biomass Planting (512)  Prescribed Grazing (528)  Range Planting (550)  Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)  Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitat (643)  Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)  Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)  Wetland Restoration (657)  Wetland Creation (658)  Wetland Enhancement (659)</p> <p><i>Note—only award points if native grasses, forbs, legumes, trees and/or shrubs are planned for use in vegetative practices.</i></p>	
1e. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	20
<p>Award points if the WPO includes CP 550, Range Planting, that involves the establishment of pollinator habitat or the management of existing pollinator habitat. (NOTE: CP 550 contains a specific payment scenario for pollinator habitat in the Kansas fiscal year (FY) 2012 payment schedule.)</p>	
1f. Eradicate or control SWP prioritized noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	15
<p>Award points if plan includes either CPs 314 or 315 and targets noxious or invasive plant species (see Noxious and Invasive Species list link through electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Section II, or at <a href="http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/349">http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/349</a>).</p>	
1g. Benefit declining or important aquatic wildlife species prioritized in the SWP?	20
<p><b>Kansas State WHIP Plan does not directly identify aquatic species therefore this question is not applicable in Kansas.</b></p>	
1h. Benefit SWP prioritized fish or wildlife species in forested areas?	15
<p>Award points if offered area includes forested or forested riparian areas AND includes one of the following CPs:</p> <p>Forest Stand Improvement (666)  Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)  Riparian Forest Buffer (391)</p>	

1i. Establish habitat on pivot corners and irregular areas on agricultural land?	10
<p>Award points if offered area includes establishment of permanent cover which benefits wildlife species on center pivot corners and/or irregular areas (i.e., 5 acres or less) currently being cropped AND if the plan includes one of the following CPs:</p> <p>Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)  Field Border (386)  Riparian Forest Buffer (391)  Filter Strip (393)  Forage and Biomass Planting (512)  Range Planting (550)  Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)  Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitat (643)  Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)  Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)  Windbreak Shelterbelt Renovation (650)  Wetland Restoration (657)  Wetland Creation (658)  Wetland Enhancement (659)  Forest Stand Improvement (666)</p> <p><i>Note—only award points if native grasses, forbs, legumes, trees and/or shrubs are planned for use in vegetative practices.</i></p>	
1j. Provide self-sustaining habitat for SWP prioritized fish and wildlife while reducing net carbon emissions or boosting carbon storage (e.g., warm season perennial grasses, trees or shrubs)?	10
<p>Award points if the WPO meets the minimum requirements for a priority species of statewide concern (pheasants, northern bobwhite quail, or prairie-chicken) based on Kansas WHIP Species Specific Habitat Assessment OR if the WPO restores or enhances critical habitat for T&amp;E species or provides habitat for SINC AND includes one of the following CPs: Contour Buffer Strips (332)  Critical Area Planting (342)  Field Border (386)  Riparian Forest Buffer (391)  Filter Strip (393)  Forage and Biomass Planting (512)  Prescribed Grazing (528)  Range Planting (550)  Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)  Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitat (643)  Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)  Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)  Wetland Restoration (657)  Wetland Creation (658)  Wetland Enhancement (659)</p>	

<i>Note—only award points if native warm-season perennial grasses, forbs, legumes, trees and/or shrubs are planned in vegetative practices.</i>	
1k. Benefit migration and other movement corridors for SWP prioritized wildlife?	15
Award points if the WPO establishes or manages species specific wildlife habitat in movement corridors for priority species of concern (pheasants, northern bobwhite quail, or prairie-chicken). Prairie-chicken offered acreage must be within the current range.	
2a. Implement wildlife habitat practices scheduled in the Schedule or Plan of Operations (Form NRCS-CPA-1155) within the first two years of date of obligation of the agreement?	20
Award points if the WPO is scheduled to complete habitat development practices within the first two years of contract obligation.	